The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1578 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 27

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Anyone who says President Roosevelt is pushing America into the war is goofy or worse. That is Hitler's line. It used to be Stalin's too, poor fool. But it is not decent for Americans to parrot the propaganda of Hitler or Stalin. What goes for Lindbergh, Wheeler, Wood and Rhea L. Lewis.

American workers have full confidence in President Roosevelt. They do not believe for one minute that he is a warmonger. They know him as a man who has undergone great suffering without becoming embittered. They know him as a President who has wielded greater power than any predecessor without losing touch with the common man. They know him as a benefactor and a man of good will.

Let us face the facts. America has not yet forgotten the last World War and its disillusioning aftermath. That war gave us the horrors and this war is giving us the creeps. We don't want any part of it if we can possibly avoid it.

If we do get into this war, we will be forced into it not by President Roosevelt or any other American but by Adolph Hitler. It was Hitler who precipitated the present struggle. It was Hitler who, without provocation of any sort, plunged one European nation after another into war. It was Hitler who entered into alliance with Japan in an effort to intimidate America. And it is Hitler, insatiable in his hunger for power, who constitutes the ugly menace to our present freedom and our future security.

If We Don't Watch Out

Now here is where our good friends, the isolationists, step up and howl. We have no quarrel with decent isolationists. We used to be one ourselves until the impact of this war shattered our comfortable feeling that America is and always will be secure against any outside foe. That is no longer true.

The isolationists say America cannot be invaded. They say America can remain at peace as long as it wants to be at peace. We challenge these assertions.

Suppose Hitler quickly conquers Soviet Russia. Suppose he finally forces Great Britain into submission. Suppose he next takes over Asia with his Japanese allies and Africa with Mussolini's help.

Where will America stand then? Will that help bring us peace? Will that serve to make us feel more secure? Will we then be able to call a halt to our national defense program and turn our swords into plowshares?

Will we be able to stop building warships when Hitler takes control of the British Navy and adds it to that of Japan, Italy and France? Will we be able to stop building tanks? Will we be able to cope with Hitler in producing airplanes? Will we be in a better position to defend America when all our friends are destroyed and we are ringed around with greedy and envious and hostile neighbors?

The isolationists may close their eyes to the facts and stop up their ears and bury their heads in the sand but the truth is that Hitler will get us if we don't watch out!

Why Are We Arming?

This may sound like a bogeyman scare story to children but it is the plain truth. It is the basis of our entire national defense program. It is the very thing that President Roosevelt has been trying to hammer home to the American people for the past two years. It is the sole justification of our lend-lease program.

Everyone agrees that our national defense program is essential to the safety of America. On that point opinion in this country is practically unanimous. It is also the overwhelming consensus of opinion that our program of aid to Britain is vital to American safety.

But why are we arming and preparing? Why are we spending billions for munitions and airplanes to be given away to foreign nations? The answer can be given in one word—Hitler.

Yet the very people who say the national defense program is necessary and the lend-lease program may be all right are the ones who tell us that Hitler really doesn't want to bother us and that President Roosevelt is trying to push us into war.

Can you understand such logic? We can't.

American workers reject such ridiculous reasoning. They do not believe President Roosevelt seeks war. They are convinced he is doing his utmost to avoid it. They agree with him that the best way to avoid war is to prevent Hitler from winning it. And they know that if war eventually is forced upon us, it will not be Roosevelt's fault or anyone else's fault but Hitler's.

Arbitrators Award Substantial Gains For Street Car Men In Three Cities

Detroit, Mich.—Substantial wage increases were obtained for members of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes in three new arbitration awards, union headquarters announced here.

In Cleveland, the hourly pay of trainmen was raised five cents, with an additional increase of one cent an hour to be paid Sept. 1. The five-cent increase was made retroactive to last Jan. 1, when the former contract terminated. The same increase was provided for one-man car and pay-as-you-enter operators. Vacation grants also were improved so that men with five years of service will now get fourteen days vacation with twelve days pay and men with ten to five years of service will get seven days off with six days pay.

In Jamaica, Long Island, drivers of the North Shore Bus Company won a ten-cents an hour wage increase, from 77 to 87 cents, with proportionate increases for those in intermediate grades. Wages of garage men were brought to a top rate of 92½ cents an hour. Vacations with pay were increased from one to two weeks. The new arbitration board's award also requires the company to recognize the union as the representative of all its supervisory employees. The new contract provides for a complete closed shop.

In Springfield, Mass., an arbitration board granted employes of the Springfield Street Railway Company an increase of eight cents an hour to all bus operators, lifting the wage rate to 81 cents an hour. This award also was made retroactive to last January 1. Improvements in working conditions also were obtained.

HIGHER PAY GRANTED TO FRISCO CARMEN

San Francisco, Cal.—More than 3,000 workers received pay increases in a new labor contract signed by the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes (AFL) with the Market Street Railway Company. Bus drivers' pay was raised to 85 cents an hour and conductors' and motormen's to 75 cents. Improved working conditions are also forecast by eliminating many split shifts. The contract may be opened next July for further wage revisions.

Union Label Featured In Ceremonies Establishing New York Style Center

New York, N. Y.—Mayor La Guardia proclaimed New York the fashion center of the entire world—not by default on account of the war in Europe, but by right of creative talent and skilled labor. His words at ceremony at City Hall marking the official adoption of the hall-mark label of the New York dress industry.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt added that New York's claim to fashion supremacy is founded upon the good taste of a buying public that recognizes and properly evaluates good designing and good workmanship. The label, she added, will have significance for her because it will convey assurance that the articles were produced under proper working conditions and could be worn "with a comfortable conscience."

Endorsement of the label that from now on will be inserted in every coat manufactured in New York by any of the 800 concerns comprising the Dress Institute—along with the units of membership maintained by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Joint Board of the Dressmaking Industry—was indicated by the participation of David Dubinsky and Julius Hochman.

Emphasis was placed on the cooperation of labor and employer groups in the use of the label, when Mr. Dubinsky handed to Mr. Hochman a check for $25,000, the first payment of a $100,000 grant made by the I. L. G. W. U. in support of the Dress Institute.

A background for the ceremony —in which each seamstress plied a gold needle—a much enlarged reproduction of the label was hung on the wall above the speakers' rostrum. In black lettering on a white ground, it reads, "New York Creation, N. Y. Dress Institute. Made under the standards of the I. L. G. W. U." At the left is a silhouette of the New York skyline.

EMPLOYMENT AT PEAK MISS PERKINS REPORTS

Washington, D. C.—Employment rolls jumped by 600,000 in May to a new all-time peak, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins reported. In the past year the gain in jobs has been 3,110,000, she said.

In factories, the number of workers employed rose 1.5 per cent during the month, and payrolls, 5.3 per cent. Pay advances were due partly to wage increases and partly to overtime work, Secretary Perkins explained.

Longshoremen Spurn Harry Bridges; Vote AFL In Three Western Ports

Tacoma, Wash.—The Communist grip of Harry Bridges on the longshoremen of the West Coast was broken by the International Longshoremen's Association of the American Federation of Labor when overwhelming majorities in NLRB elections held in three coast ports.

The vote was:

In Tacoma—ILA (AFL), 823; ILWU (CIO), 50.

In Anacortes—ILA (AFL), 33; ILWU (CIO), 1.

In Port Angeles—ILA (AFL), 78; ILWU (CIO), 3.

The vote followed the recent order of the National Labor Relations Board reversing its three-year-old ruling setting up a single coast-wide bargaining unit for longshoremen. Under the new ruling, which permitted the longshoremen in these three ports to decide for themselves who their collective bargaining representatives should be, they overwhelmingly demonstrated conclusively that they want no part of Harry Bridges or Communist domination.

Joseph P. Ryan, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, hailed the election results as full vindication of the long fight put up by that union against the various ruling of the Labor Board which has now been reversed. He declared the vote indicated that the longshoremen of the Pacific Coast are anxious to get free of the CIO and Harry Bridges.

Domenech, Argentine Labor Chief, Pleads For Hemisphere Solidarity

Washington, D. C.—The organized workers of the United States of the most powerful of the South American republics, stand solidly with the patriotic workers of the United States in determination to resist the efforts of the Nazis to bring their poisonous influences to the Western World, the head of the Argentine labor movement declared.

This statement, by Jose Domenech, secretary-general of Argentina's General Confederation of Labor, appeared in the American Federationist, official monthly magazine of the American Federation of Labor. Although designated as secretary-general, rather than president, Senor Domenech's position corresponds to that of William Green in the A. F. of L. He is the unsalaried chief of organized labor in the Argentine Republic.

Senor Domenech's article was hailed by the United States press in Buenos Aires by Pan-American Airways clipper.

"So far as Argentina is concerned," he wrote, "the workers have a clear idea of the present reality. The public demonstrations we have staged in which we have reaffirmed our devotion to democracy are an eloquent expression of the way we think.

"They prove that the campaigns of confusionists which are being put into fact us from our duty fortunately have not succeed in troubling the spirit and hardening the hearts of the workers in our country.

"We believe that we workers of the Americas must use at present our best talents and energy to defend, inside and outside, the legislation which protects us, the life of our institutions, the rights we enjoy as individuals, the freedom of press, association and public meetings. In short, everything that counteracts the forces which seek to exploit and enslave us.

"Our program must have common trends which can stimulate understanding among our brothers of labor in this hemisphere. It is our duty to establish a basis of understanding in order that the Americas shall be able to overcome the grave circumstances created by this war.

"We in Argentina realize that the present situation requires an immense collective effort extending from one pole to the other and capable of raising a wall against the audacious and perfidious attacks of totalitarianism. Standing together, we can succeed in repelling the totalitarian menace."

The article by Senor Domenech is the first of a number to be written by the leaders of the labor movements of the various American nations for publication in the American Federationist.

The A. F. of L., which is supporting the national defense program in a thousand and one different ways, is vigorously conducting a campaign to establish complete solidarity among the workers of the American republics and vice versa.

Second Printing of Defense Posters Ordered To Meet Great Demand

The first printing of 50,000 American Federation of Labor Defense posters has been exhausted, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany announced.

However, a second edition is now on the press and will be available for distribution in a few days.

The American Federation of Labor will be glad to fill any request for a reasonable number of posters from any union affiliated with the A. F. of L. as well as from sources outside the labor movement that it feels would like to display the posters.

Such requests should be sent to Mr. Meany at the A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

The original painting from which the posters have been reproduced is now on display at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, N. Y., opened to the public recently.

Boilermakers Pledge Defense Aid; Endorse F.D.R. Anti-Dictator Stand

Kansas City, Kans.—The Executive Council of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers pledged its full support to President Roosevelt in the national defense program.

In a forthright declaration of policy, the union said:

"Our national signature of any accredited representative of this International Brotherhood affixed to a bona fide collective bargaining agreement, guarantees the employers, party thereto, of strict adherence to and compliance with, all of the terms embodied in the pact.

"This organization selects its membership, and there is no haven within its portals for the disciples of Communism, Fascism, Nazism or other totalitarian governments of free democratic institutions.

"Our membership has as a result of its 60 years of practical educational experience attained the qualifications to render unstinted and unequalled services to the railroad, shipbuilding, construction and metal manufacturing industries in all matters involving industrial relations.

"The fast that our nation is now girding to defend with all of its limitless resources the very fundamentals of the U. S. A. is not lost on individual liberty, assured by the provisions of our Federal Constitution, which should not be overlooked when those treasured rights and privileges should be even temporarily suspended.

"Inexperienced leadership of so-called 'independent,' 'industrial' and 'foredoomed 'company unions,' represent an ever-present industrial menace and through their doctrines of class-hatred and alien philosophy, jeopardize our entire creative plans.

"We repose our abiding faith and confidence in our American governmental institutions, and in our incomparably efficient and courageous leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and pledge to him our undivided, unequivocal support and cooperation in his uncompromising pronouncements against tyranny, force, brutality, waste, suffering such as now prevail in those unfortunate nations, who have fallen helpless, defenseless victims of power-possessed, hate-inspired dictators, who threaten the destruction of every vestige of civil, moral or religious rights and principles.

"Our watchword should not be the product of wishful thinking, such as, it can not happen here,' but rather that of constructive, determined purpose, 'it shall not happen here!'"

SOAP WORKERS WIN LABOR BOARD TEST

South Bend, Ind.—Soap and Glycerine Workers Local 22488 of the American Federation of Labor won a Labor Board election victory against a company union at the plant of the Colgate Palmolive Peat Company here.

S. A. Sweeney, A. F. of L. organizer, reported that the company is rapidly expanding and will soon employ about 1200 persons. New employes are joining Local 22488 which is negotiating a contract covering all the workers.

News Briefs

HIGHER PAY ASKED FOR LUMBER WORKERS

Washington, D. C. — The Industry Committee for the Lumber and Timber Products industry recommended to the Wage and Hour Administrator Fleming a universal increase in the minimum wage from 32 cents to 35 cents. It is estimated that when this recommendation goes into effect, wages of 162,000 workers, 140,000 of whom are in the South, will be increased.

Labor was represented on this Industry Committee by Frank P. Fenton, Director of Organization of the American Federation of Labor and five representatives of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, headed by M. A. Hutcheson, First General Vice President. It is reported that public hearings before the Administrator will be held within a month's time.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL BUYS DEFENSE BONDS

New York, N. Y.—A check for $15,000 was handed to Postmaster Albert Goldman at U. S. Post Office Building by payment of Defense Bonds for the Milk Wagon Drivers Union, Local 584, by President Thomas O'Leary and Max Liebler, Secretary-Treasurer.

The union is affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, A. F. of L.

PATTERSON PRAISES "HAT WORKER" EDITORIAL

Washington, D. C.—Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson warmly commended an editorial in "The Hat Worker", organ of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, which condemned Communist strikes.

In a letter to Martin Lawlor, President of the Union, Patterson said:

"As 'The Hat Workers' feels, so do the leaders of labor everywhere on guard against the activities of subversive groups whose interests lie in foreign rather than American directions. The War Department, as you know, has the fullest sympathy for the rights of unionism and of collective bargaining."

CIGAR MAKERS WIN GAINS IN TWO NEW CONTRACTS

Washington, D. C.—R. E. Van Horn, President of the Cigar Makers' International Union announces the successful negotiation and ratification of two agreements, providing substantial wage increases and vacations with pay for approximately 3,500 workers in the cigar manufacturing industry.

The first contract is a modified extension of the existing basic agreement with the P. Lorillard Company, covering cigar workers, tobacco workers, machinists and engineers, wrapperwomen and teamsters employed in Richmond, Jersey City, and Louisville.

The second covers all production workers in the Consolidated Cigar Company of the Consolidated Cigar Corporation. This agreement followed an election in which the Cigar Makers' International Union won over the CIO, thus becoming the certified bargaining agency for approximately 900 workers.

POWER EMPLOYEES WIN TWO-WEEK VACATIONS

St. Paul, Minn.—Wage increases and 2-week vacations for 1,700 employes of the Northern States Power Co. are provided in a 2-year closed shop agreement signed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the American Federation of Labor.

CAFETERIA WORKERS WIN WIDE GAINS

New York, N. Y.—A fifteen-month collective-bargaining agreement covering 5,000 employes in 140 cafeterias in New York City, operated by the New York State Board of Mediation, 250 West Fifty-seventh Street, by representatives of the Local 302, Cafeteria Employes' Union, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, and the Affiliated Restaurateurs, Inc.

The agreement provides for wage increases ranging from 32 to $5 a week, a seven-and-one-half-hour day for women employes, closed shop with hiring through the union and one week's vacation with pay. Present at the signing were Arthur S. Meyer, chairman of the Mediation Board; Stanley M. Isaacs, Borough President of Manhattan, labor and government officials.

EMPLOYERS REFUND $111,000 TO WORKERS

New York, N. Y.—During the last year more than $111,000 was collected by the State Labor Department from employers who paid less than the legal minimums (20 to 30 cents) for women and minors in the restaurant industry. The sum was refunded to 8154 persons. Nearly 71 per cent of the employers met the minimum wage for the industry.

Green Names AFL Defense Committee; Asks 795 Cities To Join In Drive

Coordinated Program To Be Drafted To Aid Defense and Protect Labor

Washington, D. C.—President William Green announced the appointment of a seven-man National Defense Committee to provide "an organized, coordinated channel through which labor can render service in the national defense program."

At the same time Mr. Green called upon A. F. of L. central labor unions in 795 leading cities to appoint similar national defense committees of their own to carry out locally the policies and programs formulated by the central A. F. of L. Committee.

Members of the committee named by Mr. Green are:

Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. Vice President, Chairman.

John Coyne, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the A. F. of L.

John P. Frey, President of the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L.

I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L.

B. M. Jewel, President of the Railroad Employes Department of the A. F. of L.

George Q. Lynch, President of the Pattermakers League of North America.

Edward J. Brown, President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Robert J. Watt, International Representative of the A. F. of L., Executive Secretary.

The following were named as alternate members of the committee:

Harry Bivers, Secretary-Treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Department.

Joseph McGough, Secretary-Treasurer of the Metal Trades Department.

G. M. Bugniazet, Vice President of the A. F. of L.

Mr. Green outlined the work of the A. F. of L. National Defense Committee and its cooperation in their drive committees as follows:

1—To help provide an adequate labor supply for defense industries and to promote jobs for other workers in civilian production.

2—To collect and disseminate information with regard to priorities of essential materials, the availability of substitute materials and practical expansion of plant capacity so that civilian production can be sustained and workers will not suffer.

3—To disseminate information on defense contracts and sub-contracts so that workers in smaller companies and plants may be assured of steady jobs and continuous employment.

4—To promote union cooperation with the United States Employment Service and other Government agencies in the training of workers for specific defense jobs and in maintaining standards for women workers called as replacements in industry.

5—To make voluntary cooperation with the Government so effective as to avoid any necessity for compulsory service.

6—To help maintain the balance between wages and incomes distributed to other groups contributing to national defense, to resist profiteering for over-inflation without jeopardizing deserved and needful wage increases.

7—To assist in the drafting of legislation to protect the social security rights of workers who leave their home communities for jobs in defense areas.

8—To prepare plans for full-time employment after the emergency for all who must earn a living.

In his letter to the central labor unions, Mr. Green said:

"There is no group of citizens which has more at stake in the present conflict and survival of the whole world than the wage earners of the United States. We still have the right of voluntary organization and we are willing and anxious to do our part to defend free institutions.

"Now that OPM is developing its field staff and offices, the American Federation of Labor should prepare to give fullest cooperation for the promotion of defense production and the maintenance of national morale to achieve that purpose. I am creating a committee on national defense and am asking all central labor unions to create defense committees of not less than three or more than five members to cooperate locally with defense agencies.

"As OPM continues to press for speed and output in defense production, defense orders, rationing of material in the interests of defense, preference orders in transportation and many basic plants engaged in civilian production. On the other hand information on how to get defense contracts and sub-contracts, on the availability of substitute materials, and the possibilities of transferring the plant to production of defense or other products will help definitely to maintain confidence in defense and provide employment for those who need it. Organized labor can also be helpful in securing advance information on plans to train new workers and to train experienced workers for new jobs. When workers are transferred to defense work protective labor standards must be maintained and protection against lowering of standards of living.

"The American Federation of Labor will keep you advised of policies and principles recommended by the National Committee and will call your attention to new problems and developments.

"We are concerned that defense production shall be managed so that workers will not be thrown out of jobs and that production for civilian uses and full-time employment shall be given consideration as we facilitate defense production."

MUSICIANS UNION BUYS DEFENSE BONDS

New York, N. Y.—The American Federation of Musicians announced the purchase of $50,000 worth of United States defense bonds and $50,000 worth of Canadian defense bonds, with an additional donation of $5,000 to the fund of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, as their contribution to the war against Hitlerism.

AFL URGES UNIONS TO GIVE TO U. S. O.

Labor Should Contribute To Better Morale of Soldiers

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called upon all affiliated unions to contribute to the United Service Organizations in their drive to provide recreational facilities for more than a million young Americans called to military service.

"Thousands of these boys are members of the American Federation of Labor unions," Mr. Green said. "Many thousands more are sons and brothers of our members. We have a particular interest in the welfare and well-being of all the young men now in training.

"We ask all affiliates of the American Federation of Labor to contribute in a most generous way to this fund. The American Federation of Labor has a long record of patriotic service to America in peace time, as well as in times of national stress. The struggle for the future America we must do our utmost to maintain the morale of our young men who are training for defense. We must demonstrate to them the abiding faith and interest of the American people as a whole."

Mr. Green disclosed the American Federation of Labor itself is making substantial gift to the U.S.O. "as long as our financial condition will permit."

RAIL PATROLMEN WIN

Washington, D. C.—The A. F. of L. Railway Patrolmen's Union, which recently won recognition covering one railroad after another, was certified by the National Mediation Board as bargaining agency for over 300 policemen on the New Haven.

WAGE HOUR DIVISION LIFTS PAY OF 800,000

Washington, D. C.—Some 800,000 workers in low-wage industries have received increases through industry wage orders, it was announced by General Counsel R. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department.

The latest wage raised by wage orders are 300,000 textile workers, 190,000 garment workers, 65,000 retail workers and 60,000 shoe workers.

INSURANCE AGENTS WIN TWO ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents won two labor victories when the insurance agents employed by the Home Beneficial Life Insurance Company in Baltimore voted in a Labor Board election for the A. F. of L. and agents of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, employed in the Columbus, Ga., district, also voted for the A. F. of L. to represent them.

The Virginia Life and Casualty Life Insurance Company of Richmond, Va., signed a contract with the American Federation of Industrial and Ordinary Insurance agents Union No. 22164 for its agents in Richmond, Va., granting increased commissions, vacations with pay, five day week, relief on all cancelled policies five years old, increased time on industrial increase and grievance clause with arbitration provision. This contract gives an average weekly increase in pay to each agent in Richmond, Va., of $5.38.

ANTI-STRIKE BILL KILLED IN MISSOURI

Jefferson City, Mo.—A vicious anti-strike bill, modeled after a law put through the Texas legislature by Governor W. Lee O'Daniel, was killed in the lower House of the legislature here, after a militant campaign against the measure by organized labor.